



Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles

May 2, 2006

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
MAYOR

The Honorable Wendy Greuel
Councilwoman, District 2
City of Los Angeles
Room 475, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attachment
SMMC Item 9(c)
8-27-07

Dear Councilwoman Greuel:

I am opposed to the proposed redevelopment of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga.

The project includes high-density condominiums that are incompatible with the relatively low-density single-family neighborhoods that surround the property. The existing driving range would be eliminated, and a significant amount of open space would be permanently lost. Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and other area roadways are already heavily congested and can not accommodate the increased traffic that will be generated by this project.

In its current form the Verdugo Hills Golf Course is a community asset that golfers have enjoyed for decades. It is also one of the few remaining privately-owned golf courses that is affordable and accessible to the public. The loss of this recreational opportunity, as well as precious open space, would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding community.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Mayor, Los Angeles County

MDA:pno



Congressman Brad Sherman

27th District, California

SERVING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND
NONPROLIFERATION

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE

February 16, 2007

The Honorable Wendy Greuel
Los Angeles City Council, District 2
200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Greuel:

I wish to express my support for your ongoing efforts to preserve the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga from development. A number of community groups and local officials have joined together to save this important community asset from development.

Your steadfast support in preserving countless acres of land in the Verdugo Mountains is a testament to the great work you do on behalf of our constituents in the San Fernando Valley, and I am hopeful we can all work together to preserve even more land from development, including the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in this matter. I look forward to following the ongoing developments regarding this potential acquisition in Tujunga. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

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Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411 • FAX 818-951-7412

March 19, 2007

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council has taken a position to support the efforts of the various community organizations from not only Sunland-Tujunga, but La Crescenta/Glendale and the unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County who are diligently working to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course (VHGC) from development.

The property where the VHGC is located is one of the last true three-par, eighteen-hole golf courses in the area. Our school children learn to play golf here and many dollars for charities have been raised through fund-raising tournaments featured at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.

This entire area including Sunland-Tujunga, Montrose, Glendale, La Crescenta and the unincorporated section suffers from a lack of park land and cannot afford another loss of open and recreational space.

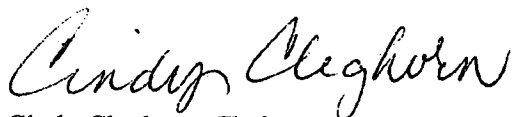
The Los Angeles City General Manager of the Department of Transportation, Gloria Jeff, has recently requested that there be an Interim Control Ordinance placed on development of this area, so the cumulative impacts of traffic on La Tuna Canyon and Tujunga Canyon can be studied. This is indicative of the tremendous amounts of traffic that already transverse this area every day. These streets carry a heavy flow of all types of traffic accessing the 210 Freeway.

We are additionally concerned about the historical past of this property. We would like it to obtain historical status based on its history as an internment depot during WWII.

Please do everything you can to find a way to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.

Sincerely,

The Community of Sunland-Tujunga



Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZED IN CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

"Our mission is to preserve, protect, and defend the urban wilderness of Glendale and the Crescenta Valley for the benefit of future generations."

March 18, 2007

The Honorable Wendy Greuel
Councilmember, City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street – Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Greuel,

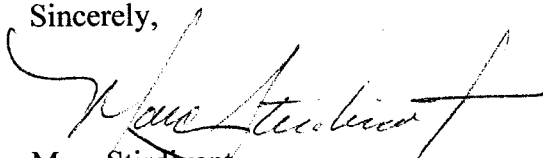
Glendale-Crescenta V.O.I.C.E. is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 with the mission of educating the public on the value of preserving open space in Glendale and the Crescenta Valley. On behalf of our nearly 5,000 members and supporters, many of whom reside in the Sunland-Tujunga area of your district, we urge you to support the preservation of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course which has been enjoyed by residents of the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Glendale for more than fifty years.

As you know, the course is threatened by a 269-unit condominium development which would not only destroy the recreational, biological, and aesthetic resources that exist on the site, but also impose significant adverse impacts on traffic and schools in the area. The course is one of the only 18-hole, 3-par courses in the region and one of the few public courses where a child can learn to golf. Indeed, countless numbers of children have been taught the game at this family-friendly course. It has been used by local high schools and community colleges for their golf programs and has been the host of numerous tournaments for charity fund-raising.

The Verdugo Hills Golf Course is also a treasure for non-golfers. Majestic oak trees dot the course. It is a valued spot of visual relief along the 210 Freeway. And it has been a landmark in the community for decades. Not only does it hold sentimental value, it has significant historical value as well. The location was once the site of a WWII Japanese internment depot and community residents are now working to obtain historical status for the land.

The residents of Los Angeles can ill afford to lose any recreational open space. We urge you to work with the County of Los Angeles, the City of Glendale, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to preserve this important community resource.

Sincerely,


Marc Stirdivant
Chairman of the Board

P.O. BOX 273, MONTROSE, CA 91021-0273
PHONE: (818) 249-0900 E-MAIL: GCVOICE@AOL.COM





March 13, 2006

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council supports retention of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course on La Tuna Canyon Road in Sunland.

Built in the 1950's, it is used by charities for fund raising programs, by high schools and colleges for golf programs and by golfers who need affordable lessons and the relative simplicity of our only reasonably local par 3 course.

Sunland/Tujunga already suffers a dearth of park land, particularly such land geared to safe and enjoyable family activities. Parts of Glendale, which also borders this golf course, suffer the same lack.

One member of our Board visits a senior family member at Oakview Convalescent Hospital on Tujunga Canyon Road. She reports that at any time of day it can take up to five minutes to safely exit the hospital driveway onto Tujunga Canyon. This road carries heavy traffic between the #210 freeway and Foothill Blvd.

A proposal exists to replace the golf course with 269 condos. Unless the developer proposes to also turn Tujunga Canyon into a four lane road, the addition of cars from that project could result in gridlock between La Tuna Canyon and Foothill Blvd.

If there exist more community friendly alternatives, please explore them for the sake of those who live and work nearby.

Thank you,

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

Cc: Supervisor Mike Antonovich
Councilperson Wendy Greuel
Glendale Mayor David Weaver



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ANGELES CHAPTER 3435 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 320 Los Angeles, CA 90010

March 21, 2007

The Honorable Wendy Greuel
Councilwoman, District 2
City of Los Angeles
Room 475, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilwoman Greuel:

RE: Preserving the Verdugo Hills Golf Course

The Sierra Club has formally taken a position against this proposed development. The Sierra Club, "Opposes the developer's plan to decrease the size of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course and to build condos on the land."

Impact

The negative impact of the housing development as proposed by MWH Development Company would be far-reaching, especially in terms of exacerbated traffic congestion along Tujunga Canyon and La Tuna Canyon Boulevards—already overly-trafficked roads. In recent town meetings even the developer acknowledged no foreseeable solution to the traffic conundrum. In addition to many other concerns associated with increased housing density is the issue of accommodating the projected hundreds of children who would live in this complex. There are no provisions for play areas or for local schools to absorb such a number of new students. Other detrimental impacts affect far more than the immediate area, as the Verdugo Hills Golf Course sits on the vertex of three jurisdictions—the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and the City of Glendale --and must be considered within that context.

Recreational, Open Space and Historical Value

The Verdugo Hills Golf Course is a unique course within greater Los Angeles by virtue of its size and location, and is the only local public course where children can learn to golf. It is utilized by many high schools and community colleges for their golf programs and tournaments, and provides a recreational opportunity for countless families through affordable and accessible golf. California State law mandates three acres of developed parkland per 1,000 people, and golf courses are included within that scope. Currently, our area drastically lacks the requisite park space per person, and the loss of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course would be a further blow to this need.

Additionally, the Verdugo Hills Golf Course is a treasure to golfers and non-golfers alike for the valued beauty and open space within the community, as well as a spot of visual relief along the 210 Freeway. It has been a landmark of the community for decades, and holds sentimental as well as historical value. This location was once the site of a WWII Japanese interment camp, and community residents are eager to seek historical status for the land. We are anxious to preserve the open spaces that have made this area a uniquely beautiful place to live and raise families, and the Verdugo Hills Golf Course is a flagship property of our joint community.

Request

Because the impacts are specific and detrimental to several communities and services, the existing use is best and should remain. We propose that the City of Los Angeles, together with Los Angeles County and the City of Glendale, and other agencies purchase the Verdugo Hills Golf Course jointly.

Fred Dong
Chair of the Crescenta Valley Sierra Club Group